

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 11992 101507Z

44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 USSS-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15

OPR-02 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /148 W

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P R 101358Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4677

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USINT BAGHDAD

USINT CAIRO

USCINCEUR

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 10/10/74

TAGS: MARR IZ SY XF

SUBJECT: IRAQI TROOPS ARRIVE IN SYRIA

1. DAILY PAPER L'ORIENT-LE JOUR OCT 10 CARRIES EX-
CLUSIVE REPORT ATTRIBUTED TO "COMMUNIST DIPLOMATIC
SOURCE" (WE ARE TOLD BY PAPER'S EDITOR THAT SOURCE IS
USSR EMBASSY) ABOUT ARRIVAL OF IRAQI ARMORED DIVISION
IN SYRIA. STORY SAYS THAT 16,000 MEN AND OVER 100 RUSSIAN-
SUPPLIED TANKS REACHED AREA OF GOLAN HEIGHTS AT
0400 LOCAL OCT 9. DURING TRIP FROM IRAQ ARMORED
COLUMN REPORTEDLY ATTACKED AT LEAST ONCE BY FLIGHT OF
FOUR PHANTOMS, WHICH DRIVEN OFF AFTER LOSING ONE PLANE
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TO "MOBILE SAM BATTERIES WHICH DEPLOYED" TO PROTECT

COLUMN AND WHICH PROVIDED AIR DEFENSE DURING ENTIRE TRIP.

2. EDITOR OF L'ORIENT SAID THAT INDEPENDENT INFO THEY HAVE RECEIVED FROM THEIR OWN JOURNALISTS AND THOSE OF SISTER PAPER AN NAHAR IN SYRIA CONFIRM ARRIVAL OF IRAQI ARMOR. EXPECTATION IS THAT THIS ARMOR WILL BE OR PERHAPS ALREADY HAS BEEN INTEGRATED INTO SYRIAN UNITS AND WILL ACTUALLY ENGAGE IN COMBAT RATHER THAN PROVIDING SYMBOL OF IRAQI SUPPORT.

3. WHILE WE HAVE NO WAY OF EVALUATING INDEPENDENTLY ACCURACY OF L'ORIENT STORY, IT APPEARS RING TRUE WITH OTHER REPORTS WE HAVE SEEN AND IT IS ACCEPTED BY OTHER OBSERVERS WITH REPRESENTATION IN SYRIA SUCH AS YUGOSLAVS. EVEN IF STORY NOT WHOLLY ACCURATE, IT WILL PROBABLY BE PICKED UP AND SPREAD AND BELIEVED IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. THIS LIKELY INCREASE PRESSURES ON JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA WHO WOULD BE LOATH BE OUTDONE BY IRAQ. BUFFUM

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Message Attributes

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